

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 6 and substitute therefor the following paragraph, which contains markings to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph:

In Fig. 1, an applicator 10 is used to apply a multi-layer coating 12 to a base U, for example a paper web 14, moving in running direction L at a base running speed of up to 3000 m/min for papers. If the base U is cardboard, the base running speed is up to 200 m/min.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 8 and substitute therefor the following paragraph, which contains markings to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph:

Applicator 10 includes a first curtain applicator unit 16, which applies a first application medium 18, for example a starch solution or starch suspension, as a precoat 20 to surface 14a of paper web 14. In addition, applicator 10 includes a second curtain applicator unit 22, which applies application medium 24 as a top coat 26 onto precoat 20, applied by first curtain applicator unit 16. Application medium 24 of top coat 26 can be, for example, a dispersion or suspension of ink-filled microcapsules, these microcapsules being indicated dotted in Fig. 1. This produces a grammage of coated material web of between about 30 g/m<sup>2</sup> and about 150 g/m<sup>2</sup> in the case of coating paper and between about 150 g/m<sup>2</sup> and 1000 g/m<sup>2</sup> for cardboard.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 14 and substitute therefor the following paragraph, which contains markings to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph:

Both applicator units 16 and 22 discharge application medium 18 and 24 in the form of an application medium curtain 28 and 30, respectively at a rate of application between about 4 l/min and about 100 l/min per meter of cubic width. In this case, a guide blade 32 and 34 is provided immediately adjacently to discharge opening 16a and 22a of applicator units 16, 22, its length in the flow direction of application medium 18 or 24 being dimensioned or set, as a function of the properties of respective application medium 18, 24, in such a way that application medium curtain 28 or 30 subsequently takes a substantially vertical course (direction V) at breakaway edge 32a and 34a, respectively. That is to say neither exhibits the so-called "teapot effect" nor "shoots out" over breakaway edge 32a or 34a in a parabolic shape.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 4 and substitute therefor the following paragraph, which contains markings to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph:

According to the embodiment, two points of incidence 38 and 40 of precoat curtain 28 and of top-coat curtain 30 are at a spacing D from each other, which is between about 100 mm and about 500 mm. Spacing D is sufficient to immobilize precoat 20 adequately on paper web surface 14a, so that impairment or even damage to precoat 20 as a result of being struck by top-coat curtain 30 is not to be feared. Each of the curtains have a height of between about 40 mm and about 400 mm.